

CITIZEN'S TRANSPORTATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

**Glendale City Hall
5850 West Glendale Avenue
Glendale, Arizona**

**January 15, 2002
Meeting Minutes**

A Citizen's Transportation Oversight Committee (CTOC) meeting and Public Meeting were held at the Glendale City Hall, 1st Floor Council Chambers, 5850 West Glendale Avenue, Glendale, Arizona on January 15, 2002 with Chairperson William G. Beyer presiding.

Members Present:

William G. Beyer, Chairperson
Brian Campbell, Member-At-Large
Ron Gawlitta, Maricopa County District 3
Jim Lykins, Maricopa County District 2
Paul Schwartz, Maricopa County District 4

Members Absent:

Tom Liddy, Maricopa County District 1

Others Present:

Victor Mendez, Director, ADOT
Ed Johnson, City of Youngtown
Chuck Eaton, ADOT
Elaine Scruggs, Mayor, City of Glendale
Bob McKnight, citizen-Phoenix
Robert Damora, Rocky Mtn. Construction News
Terry Johnson, City of Glendale
Stuart Boggs, RPTA
Dwight Amery, new CTOC Board Member
Allan Grover, citizen-Glendale
Bill Karstans, citizen-Sun City West
Ginger Ryan, citizen-Sun City West
Carolyn Deobler, ADOT

Steve Jimenez, ADOT
Kwi-Sung Kang, ADOT
Bill Hayden, ADOT Ombudsman
Dan Lance, ADOT
Elizabeth Neville, ADOT
Amy Rudibaugh, City of Glendale
Patricia Hickson, citizen-Peoria
Joe Ryan, citizen-Sun City West
Rich Bank, citizen-Tempe
Nate Mueller, citizen-Glendale
Jim Book, City of Glendale
Tom Husband, citizen-Paradise Valley

1. Call To Order:

Chairperson Beyer called the Citizen's Transportation Oversight Committee meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. CTOC Position on Governance:

Brian Campbell referred to the draft report regarding CTOC's position on Governance. Chairperson Beyer asked that copies of the report be sent to all CTOC members.

3. Financial Compliance Audit Report:

Chuck Eaton, ADOT, reported the following information:

- A previous issue concerning two project numbers was researched and appropriate documentation was found. Therefore, the report found everything in order.
- Chairperson Beyer called for a motion. Ron Gawlitta moved to approve the Financial Compliance Audit Report. Paul Schwartz seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

4. Member Recognition:

Chuck Eaton, ADOT, introduced Rochne (Roc) Arnett as the new Chairman of the Citizens Transportation Oversight Committee and Dwight D. Amery as a new member-at-large. He announced Ron Gawlitta's reappointment as the District 3 representative.

Mr. Eaton reviewed Chairperson Beyer's and Brian Campbell's accomplishments during their tenure with CTOC.

Chairperson Beyer proceeded with the Public Meeting

Chairperson Beyer asked Elizabeth to distribute copies of the letter from Mr. and Mrs. Cramer to members for their review.

5. Status of Northwest Valley Transportation Projects:

Bill Hayden, ADOT Ombudsman, conducted an overhead presentation regarding transportation projects currently under construction or planned for the west valley. He reported the following information:

US 60-Grand Corridor:

- 27th Avenue and 91st Avenue: currently under construction (Open in Summer of 2003).
- 43rd Avenue and Camelback & 51st Avenue and Bethany Home Road: Design plans completed, Fall 2002 bid.
- Other four intersections being designed; approximately 30% level.

Other Projects

- Loop 101 and Loop 303 corridor study is nearing completion
- Widening (4 lanes) between Morristown & Beardsley Road under construction. Completion in October 2002.

Estrella Loop 303 – This 4-6 lane divided highway is being developed and will be maintained and operated by Maricopa County in cooperation with west valley cities

- McDowell Road – Indian School Road: Programmed in FY 2002/2003
- Indian School - Clearview: DCR/EA: (April 01 – May 02, 2002)
- Grand Avenue Interchange: Open Spring 2002
- Grand to Lake Pleasant Road: 2-lane roadway. Start early 2002 and open late 2003.
- Lake Pleasant to I-17: DCR/EA study underway (expected to take 18 months)

Chairperson Beyer commented on the research and analysis done by the City of Glendale regarding the Loop 303.

6. Glendale Transportation Overview:

Jim Book, Traffic Engineer, City of Glendale, reviewed the status of transportation projects in the City of Glendale. He reported the following:

- Glendale's population is projected to increase by 52 percent by 2025, whereas vehicle miles traveled are expected to increase 96 percent and miles of congested roadway are expected to increase 317 percent.

Chairperson Beyer interrupted Mr. Book's presentation to introduce Mayor Elaine Scruggs.

Elaine Scruggs, Mayor, City of Glendale, offered her thanks, appreciation and congratulations to Mr. Beyer on his tenure as a member of CTOC. She stated his professionalism; leadership and integrity made him an outstanding member.

Chairperson Beyer thanked Mayor Scruggs for her comments and stated he hopes to have another opportunity to work with her in the future.

Mr. Book continued with his presentation discussing the following projects currently underway in Glendale:

- Loop 101- north leg - active projects: turning lanes at 59th and 67th Avenues; auxiliary lanes from 67th to 51st Avenue; noise walls from 51st Avenue to Union Hills; the Beardsley Road connection; a bicycle overpass at 63rd Avenue and median landscaping.
- Loop 101 - west leg - joint projects: Glendale T.I.; Bethany Home Road T.I.; Park and Ride lot at Glendale and 99th Avenues; and ITS Conduit
- Grand Avenue - active ADOT projects: Overpasses at 67th, Maryland, 51st and 43rd Avenues and an Underpass at 59th Avenue.
- Grand Avenue – election projects: landscaping, structure enhancements and access improvements.
- Loop 303 – active projects: I-10 to Grand, McDOT, Design Concept Report; Grand to Lake Pleasant Road, McDOT, Interim Construction; Lake Pleasant Road to I-17, ADOT, DCR, Environmental Assessment; and right-of-way protection.
- Funding needs have been identified as follows:
 - Loop 101 – HOV lanes; 2nd Park and Ride lot; Maryland HOV Connection; Full FMS.
 - Loop 303 – I-10 to Grand, complete as freeway and Grand to I-17, complete as freeway.
 - Grand Expressway – landscaping; access control; and grade separations.
 - Northern Super Street – free flow connection at Grand, Loop 101 and Loop 303; grade separation at major arterial; additional lanes; and median divider.

7. Terry Johnson, Transportation Planning Manager, City of Glendale:

Reviewed the Glendale Transportation Election, reporting the following information.

- Public outreach included a survey of 740 voters, 13 CACTI Committee meetings, 18 City Council district meetings, 13 Commission meetings, two business luncheons and one Town Hall meeting.

- The principal public concerns identified were transit issues, including bus, Dial-a-Ride and rail; congestion relief; safety issues, including accident reductions and educational programs for children; and neighborhood concerns such as speeding and cut-through traffic.
- Street projects include intersection improvements, such as turning lanes, smart traffic signals and bus pullouts; street improvements, including street widenings, landscaping and an east/west corridor; and ongoing programs including neighborhood, safety and educational programs.
- Transit service enhancements include extended bus and dial-a-ride service, both in terms of hours of operation and miles covered, as well as a regional light rail connection to downtown Glendale.
- Bicycle and pedestrian paths and work-at-home projects were also included in the election package.
- Streets account for 31 percent of the \$1 billion cost, while buses account for 34 percent and light rail accounts for 17 percent.
- 58 percent of the funding will come from the ½ cent sales tax and 32% will come from federal, state and regional funding sources.
- Voter assurances: 1) projects were placed on the ballot in the form of maps; 2) all sales tax funds will be placed in a separate transportation fund that can only be used for transportation purposes; 3) the Citizen Oversight Commission will have specific duties and responsibilities, including establishing a long range program, producing an annual report and conducting audits; and 4) a 5 percent contingency fund.

8. Member Recognition:

Victor Mendez, Director, ADOT, presented certificates to Bill Beyer and Brian Campbell in recognition of their service on the Citizens Transportation Oversight Committee and their contributions to the Community.

Chairperson Beyer acknowledged his fellow Committee members and ADOT staff for their support.

Mr. Campbell said his experience with CTOC has taught him that his initial suspicious and cynical opinions of ADOT were wrong, stating he now has the utmost respect for everyone he has worked with.

9. Call to the Public:

Mr. Tom Husband, resident of Paradise Valley, said the proposed rail system appears to lock the state into a very expensive operation. He said, conversely, buses provide for flexibility, both in terms of schedules and routes. He pointed out that buses can also be upgraded to take advantage of newer technologies. He expressed concern about the unknown costs involved in building and operating the rail system.

Mr. Rich Bank, Tempe resident, said the city has several non-attainment days each year and an aversion layer that holds the atmosphere down. He stated the projected 1.2 million population increase will add over 1 million vehicles to the roads. He asked the Committee to have someone who understands chemistry read and review the MAG Air Quality Conformity Report, stating some of its findings are flawed. He said in 1998 the public indicated they wanted a rapid transit system and that they preferred buses over light rail. He said, however, those preferences are not indicated in today's literature. He stated only 14 percent of voters turned out for the Glendale election, making for a

shallow victory. He said the valley currently does not have a comprehensive growth plan; therefore, it is impossible to align a transportation system.

Mr. Bob McKnight, resident of Phoenix, addressed the Commission about the trolley asking how it will accommodate people in wheelchairs. He said the public meetings he attended regarding the trolley were nothing more than sales pitches. He said the city should develop a model or computer simulation of how the trolley would interface with other forms of traffic. He said the city needs a better philosophy for traffic coordination, suggesting a lot could be done with computers and electronic sensors.

Mr. Joe Ryan, Sun City West resident, addressed the Committee regarding a rapid transit system. A written copy of his statement was submitted for the record.

10. Closing comments and Adjournment:

Paul Schwartz, CTOC, agreed with Mr. Ryan's comments, stating he believes an overhead transportation system could be developed.

Ron Gawlitta, CTOC, said he has always been a proponent of elevated systems, however, it is difficult to get people to listen. He expressed frustration that the process has gone to the point of being irreversible, stating he wishes citizen input had been taken seriously and real experts had been involved in the process. He thanked Chairperson Beyer and Mr. Campbell for serving on the Committee.

Chairperson Beyer thanked all those who attended and gave testimony.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.